

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-70 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 2, and 3 have been amended.

I. Claim Objections

The redundant phrase in claim 1 that the Examiner objected to has been deleted.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

All of the pending claims were rejected as allegedly being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by US Patent No. 6,001,231 (“Kopf-Sill”). The amendments made to claim 1 introduce a limitation that is not taught in Kopf-Sill. Specifically, Kopf-Sill does not appear to disclose any method of monitoring flow rates that involves “identifying or quantifying differences in area”. The introduction of the “area” limitation to claim 1 should render all pending claims allowable over Kopf-Sill since all of the pending claims ultimately depend from claim 1, and thus all contain the “area” limitation.

The amendments made to claims 2 and 3 were made to reconcile those claims with the amendments to claim 1.

Appl. No. 09/760,009 filed 01/11/2001
Parce, et al.
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2004

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Signed: _____

